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T. Boone Pickins

Personal Life

- **Early Life**: Thomas Boone Pickens Jr. was born on May 22, 1928, in Holdenville, Oklahoma. He was the son of Grace Marcaline and Thomas Boone Sibley Pickens. His father worked as an oil and mineral landman, and his mother ran the local Office of Price Administration during World War II.

- **Education**: Pickens attended Texas A&M University on a basketball scholarship but later transferred to Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University), where he graduated with a degree in geology in 1951.

- **Marriages and Family**: Pickens was married five times. His spouses were Lynn O'Brien (1949-1971), Beatrice Carr (1972-1998), Nelda Cain (2000-2004), Madeleine Paulson (2005-2012), and Toni Brinker (2014-2017). He had five children.

- **Later Years and Death**: Pickens passed away on September 11, 2019, in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 91.

Professional Life

- **Early Career**: After graduating, Pickens worked for Phillips Petroleum until 1954. He then founded his own company, which eventually became Mesa Petroleum.

- **Mesa Petroleum**: By 1981, Mesa had grown into one of the largest independent oil companies in the world. Pickens became well-known for his corporate takeovers and mergers during the 1980s, including attempts to buy out Cities Service, Gulf Oil, Phillips Petroleum, and Unocal.

- **BP Capital Management**: In 1996, Pickens left Mesa Petroleum and founded BP Capital Management, a hedge fund focused on energy investments.

- **Philanthropy**: Pickens was also known for his philanthropic efforts, donating over $500 million to various causes, including his alma mater, Oklahoma State University.

T. Boone Pickens was a larger-than-life figure in the oil and gas industry, known for his business acumen, corporate raiding, and significant philanthropic contributions.